

St Edmund's Church Crickhowell

In the Diocese of Swansea & Brecon

Annual Report for 2020



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1 Forward

It won't be an exaggeration to say that 2020 has brought unprecedented challenges to our parish. Yet, in the face of overwhelming trouble, we give thanks and praise to God, who has sustained our community and continues to provide us with hope.

Like others in the country, the members of our church have been affected by the situation this year but have seen God's grace in our midst. I believe this year has ultimately strengthened us and has enhanced our commitment to being the people of God in Crickhowell.

I am thankful to all those who have contributed to the Annual Report 2020, and by reading the annual report, you will see that, despite our limited resources, we positively make the most of what we have. A special thanks to Anthony Silwood for putting this report together.

We often hear that the church may not be the same after this pandemic, and we have yet to understand how the new challenges and opportunities will transform our mission strategy and church life. However, by faith, we will move forward into the new reality that awaits us in 2021.

Revd Rana Khan

2. Rector's Report

But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength. They shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint. Isaiah 40:31

Peace to you in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ. As I sit down to write this report, I am giving thanks for the past year we have had together. St. Edmund's Church, Crickhowell is a faithful community, and I am grateful to be on this journey with you.

It has been a strange year- very different from that any of us would have imagined at the beginning of the last year. A challenging situation required a lot of creativity, imagination, and prayer to maintain, adapt, and enhance the worship, ministry, and outreach. We have found new ways to connect and offer our gifts to the community in the parish. Our commitment 'to worship God and express the love of God in the world' made it possible.

We have raised support for the Foodbank and our mission partners, both local and overseas.

We have journeyed from passing the peace, worshipping in the church, and receiving Holy Communion to closing the buildings and moving everything online. Our ministry team has developed skills to contribute to this new way of ministering to people.

Our church members have been so accommodating and generous with their spirit and patience as we found our way to meet via Zoom and pre-recorded services. We have tried to continue our activities as much as we could, home groups, coffee chat, lent study, weekly prayer meetings, youth groups, messy church, evangelism and the PCC meetings etc.

In addition, I am very grateful for the hard work of our PCC. Those who serve on the PCC give a large amount of their time to the church. I cannot ignore the good work of our churchwardens, Sue Foster and Kathryn Bullon.

I also want to thank our Diocese and the Representative Body for the parish share's financial assistance in 2020 and Archbishop John Davies' leadership and frequent guidance through these strange times.

We are planning to open the church for public worship just before Easter. I am aware some may not want to return to church right away, and I understand; the MA Team is considering continuing to offer online ministry for some time. But I also know many of us are longing to return to worship in person. However, we all cannot return to in-person worship until the infection rate and positive test rate for Covid-19 come down. We must remember that we have to love God and love our neighbour, and we can do both by worshipping online and not endangering one another's health by gathering in large numbers.

Until we all can come back together, keep your fellow parishioners in your prayers. Reach out and call someone you miss seeing. Contact someone you know who lives alone. And if any of you need anything, please don't hesitate to contact the churchwardens or me.

Revd Rana Khan

3. Older People's Ministry / Lay Pastoral Visitors

This year has been a difficult one for pastoral ministry due to three periods of lockdown starting in March 2020 which has meant that apart from a few weeks in the summer of 2020 when garden visits were permissible, face to face visits for those in care homes and retirement facilities and those who are housebound have not been possible. Also, many of the pastoral visitors have also been required to 'shield' due to age and underlying health issues. Despite these circumstances we have endeavoured to keep contact with those who we would usually visit and to support as best as we can in other ways. Rev Sally Rees would like to thank all those in the team (and generally in the church) who have kept in contact with others to help maintain fellowship and support for each other during the lockdown periods.

Older people in their own homes

The most vulnerable people in our church family who were already housebound prior to the pandemic outbreak have not been visited apart from a brief period in the summer of 2020 when some people were visited in their gardens. Those who were receiving Home Communion have not received the Eucharist now for almost a year.

The pastoral team are keeping in touch with this group of people through regular phone calls and dropping off resources from time to time (such as Bible reading notes). During Christmas week approximately 30 CD's of St Edmunds recording of the 9 Lessons and Carols, a Christmas card and a gift of some encouraging Christian literature were delivered to those who are housebound, including some who are shielding just at this particular time. A similar literature drop is also planned during Holy week 2021.

Many housebound are unable to access online services of worship that are provided weekly, but have (and had already been used to) accessing alternative forms of worship through Radio and Television. During lockdown the recent free phone line DAILY HOPE line

provided by the Church of England has also been suggested and recommended as a source of comfort, prayer and an opportunity to worship with others.

Care Homes

Similarly, the pastoral team have not been able to visit Care Homes to take services of worship or other activities that under normal circumstances occur weekly. We have maintained contact as best as we can and have sent regular resources such as Bible reading notes, cards and bookmarkers with texts and messages of God's love and care to colour. We have also sent cards with messages to residents to remind them that we still think of them and pray for them. We also managed one service of worship at social distance from the Greenhill car park before the second lockdown. During December Sally and another colleague from the Anna Chaplaincy network devised a special Advent Calendar with daily reflections of Christmas themed encouragement for residents. One of these was given to Greenhill residents.

In the autumn of 2020 Sally was awarded £800 by PAVO (Powys Association of Voluntary Organisations) to help continue ministry to the Care Homes and Retirement housing in our Ministry Area including Greenhill Care Home and Maes y Ffynnon. This money has been used to supply Greenhill (and other homes) with craft resources (mostly weekly) around a religious and Bible based message. This money is likely to cover resources until Easter. It is our hope and prayer that these resources will help to keep residents in touch with their faith and that they will also be reminded that those in the pastoral team and the wider church family are still thinking of them and still care about them and love them.

At Greenhill a new Activity Coordinator was appointed in the summer of 2020. We are in regular contact with her and our relationship is developing well despite not being able to see her.

Maes y Ffynnon

All residents at Maes y Ffynnon have been shielding since March 2020 and have not been able to use the communal areas. The complex has been closed to all outside visitors. We have also endeavoured to keep in touch with residents here, and this has been helped by the two members of the pastoral team who live there. There have been several residents who have moved out or who have died during this year and also several of newcomers who we have not been able to meet as yet. We have been able to send some resources in for the residents from time to time including an Advent Calendar with daily reflections for the Christmas season.

Publications

Since this has been a difficult time for ministry as face to face communication, Sally has written three booklets (of 5) for Carers, both in Care Homes and in peoples own homes, to help enable carers who **are able to see and touch** people to provide spiritual care and help those residents to worship who want / need to. *For more information – see the BRF online bookshop, Carers Guides.* Sally (and other church members who have donated sets of booklets) has been able to give every Care Homes in our Ministry Area a set for staff to use when able.

Anna Chaplaincy

Sally was commissioned as Anna Chaplain for our Ministry Area and Anna Chaplaincy Lead for Wales in November 2020.

Anna Chaplaincy is a particular model of Older People's Ministry pioneered by Debbie Thrower and the Bible Reading Fellowship. 'It is a person-centred and non-judgemental ministry for people of strong, little or no faith at all. It involves visiting older people wherever they may be living, whether in residential and nursing homes, sheltered housing, retirement complexes or other private homes. The emphasis is on spiritual support but, clearly, people's practical struggles will also play a part in their overall well-being..... Spiritual support provided in a gentle and loving way brings comfort and succour to people who may be at a low point in their lives. It enables older people to live with greater meaning and purpose. Finding some peace in their later years, they may be better prepared to face the end of their earthly lives..... The chaplaincy is intended to complement and run alongside, rather than replicating or replacing, ministry already being done by churches. (www.annachaplaincy.org.uk/vision). For more information see the www.annachaplaincy.org.uk website.

Anna Chaplaincy Training

In January and February Sally led an official Anna Chaplaincy online Training course for those in Wales interested to find out more about Anna Chaplaincy and explore a 'calling' to this ministry. 2 people from St Edmunds completed this course.

Bereavement Ministry

Lockdown has been an extremely difficult time for those who have been bereaved. Members of the pastoral team are again trying support as best they can. Sally for St Edmunds church has run two courses of The Bereavement Journey, provided by Loss and Hope (www.lossandhope.org) which has made it available as an online course and is run on Zoom. The course is six two-hour sessions comprising videos and discussion time. Topics include Attachment, separation and loss • the impact and pain of bereavement Adjusting to change • Anger and guilt • Coping with others' reactions Moving on healthily • And an optional 6th session on Faith questions.

Each person who has attended these courses has been offered ongoing support.

For any further information about pastoral care or if you are interested in becoming a pastoral visitor or Anna Chaplain contact Rev Sally Rees on 01873 811332

Revd Sally Rees

4. Evangelism

As most opportunities to interface with the local community have been severely restricted this year, the online Telusk Forum programme was launched online. As an informal, newsy magazine programme, it was initially produced weekly and now on a fortnightly basis.

Each programme of around 30 minutes contains a variety of items, of interest not only to church members but also the wider community. We have undertaken interviews with local businesses and charities. We have also included information on world-wide Christian

ministry and mission, and photographs, music and poetry sourced from church members. We have been supported by Dr Carl and Jeremy in the provision of pithy spiritual reflections at the end of each programme.

I would like to thank all those others involved in its production for their great support. Alison has shared with me in the introductions to the programme and interviewing. The Large family and Vaughan have provided some really enjoyable musical items; April Games, Helen Seys and Alison have provided great photos and Helen has composed some contemplative poetry specifically for the programme.

I would like to thank members of the PCC for their ongoing support of this venture. Please pray for wisdom in taking it forward into 2021, so that we can make the most of this great opportunity to have a wider platform to share our faith in the community. Any ideas or offers of help would be much appreciated.

Julian Stedman

5. Worship & Music

Worship

Apart from a relatively short period in the autumn when we were able to hold services at 10 am in the church, during the past year the worship leaders have assisted in the preparation and delivery of the Ministry Area pre-recorded and Zoom services. We learnt (somewhat reluctantly) new skills of communicating with a screen, and in helping to provide technical support.

We had much positive feedback for the in-church services and those we were able to provide at festivals and Christmas, although everyone regretted the constraints of not being able to sing and greet each other in the usual ways. The positive side was the greater sense of integration with members of other churches and the opportunity to share ministry with folk on the fringe or living far away. However, I'm sure that we all look forward to being able to lead services with the freedom to sing, pray and greet each other again with creativity and unfettered abandon.

Music

This has been a really challenging year with the Church largely closed for public worship. This means the Worship Group have only met on two occasions. I.e. St Edmunds-Tide and again at Christmas - and with a reduced group as a result of some members sheltering and John Matty 'locked down' in Guildford! It was quite an emotional recording session as we had not met since mid-March 2020.

Those were recorded songs for inclusion in on-line services. When the Church was open during last year for public worship – but no singing, Anthony and I took it in turns to provide some background music.

More recently most of the Worship Group took part in 'remotely-mixed' recordings of a couple of songs with Mairwen providing the accompaniment. The singers recorded the songs in their own homes and these were sent to Simon for him to compile into a unified

version. Simon displayed his versatility by not only combining all the individual recordings (for which we are most grateful) BUT adding his own viola line as well!!

On some occasions Mairwen and Josh have provided pre-recorded songs/hymns for on-line services.

We look forward to a time when restrictions have been lifted and we can lead worship again.

Julian Stedman and Vaughan Bennett

6. Children and Families' Work

As with most of us, I start my report with the acknowledgment that my ministry has changed beyond all recognition this year as a result of the Covid Pandemic which shut down all my Crickhowell-based activities. It was an odd beginning to the year.

Messy Church in February was cancelled because of Storm Dennis which subsequently caused awful damage to the Riverside area and I redirected my effort in that direction as one of our Messy Church families was flooded out.

As we progressed through February I was becoming reluctant to plan too much for Easter. The Open the Book team was the first to be affected with a directive from the Bible Society that we should not go into schools, which pre-dated the closure of schools in Wales in mid-March. Messy Church in March was also cancelled and the Mothering Sunday card activity planned was repackaged and quarantined (by me) as a Prayer Space activity for Sally Rees to take to 75 residents in care homes who would be unable to see their families on Mothering Sunday.

I was furloughed at the beginning of lockdown but continued to maintain contact with the Mums because I felt this was my pastoral responsibility. By Easter time I had become used to using Zoom to arrange meet ups and undergone some training and so I subscribed on a monthly basis, a fee which is now paid for by the church as it is used widely in the church's ministry.

Messy Mondays

Concerned for the welfare of the toddler mums in particular, one who had a week old baby and a toddler and a two week supply of nappies, I started dabbling with Zoom calls for 30 minutes twice a week for anybody who wished to join with their toddler and we would have a sing and a chat. Those doing 'Emergency Schooling' (I prefer this term to Home Schooling which is something completely different) found this timing tricky.

As I started to work 5 hours a week in July, I agreed to swap to a Monday evening so they could have a good old beef about their children and make suggestions about school work to each other. This became a regular event for two of the mums.

One of the Mums has since moved away but we have had three births in the intervening year and I look forward to meeting them all. They remain on the invitation list to all our activities and I have met some of them for a walk in Crickhowell.

Other activities which restarted in July and have been adapted to the situation include:

Crickhowell Primary School

Alison has outlined separately our OTB efforts.

The year 6 children had their Leavers' Books in July as usual with a message, wishing them well in their new schools.

I purchased Meaningful Chocolate Advent Calendars for each class in November which had a Christmas story book too. We treated the staff to a large tub of Heroes with their Christmas card - because they are.

Holiday Club / Messy Church Summer Specials

Our first online effort was the pre-recorded Good Friday Messy Church, with four recorded monologues recorded by the team at home, a reflection and some prayers to tell the story of Good Friday.

As it became obvious that Holiday Club was not going to be possible the team redirected its attention to an online version. Five episodes were premiered on each Sunday in August at 4 pm themed on the Bible Heroes; Peter, Philip, Mary & Martha, Paul and Timothy. Each involved four videos -

1. Welcome and Craft activity
2. Pre-recorded Bible story from YouTube
3. Reflection and a Prayer space and Grace
4. A worship song for children

All the team: Alison, Faith, Judy R, Kate, Elis and Enid, Lyn, Moseena and I took turns in filming themselves for a slot - either a craft activity or a prayer space. Again we worked hard to involve our families who sent in films or photos of themselves doing the activities.

Messy Church

Ali, Judy, Lyn, Moseena and I have worked hard to develop a format for this event on Zoom, building on what worked best at the Summer Specials. We aim to be 30 minutes including a Showtime, story, reflection, prayer and a song. We had a **Be Thankful** event in October where we all brought something homemade to show. November was an Advent service called **Mary Waited** and Alison wrote the story for this. All the Families received a Christian Advent calendar. In December we had a good turn-out for the **Christingle** service. Families pre-registered for this and collected Christingle-in-a-Bag kits, from the porch at Glan y Dwr, to assemble at home during the Zoom service. We were so fortunate to have booked it for the 2nd Sunday as those planning a Christmas Eve Christingle were, sadly, very disappointed.

The one casualty of the second Covid peak was the Annual Nativity Trail which we were unable to complete and indeed some of our angels are still in shop windows as I write.

As you see, we have explored all sorts of creative ways of engaging families with the Gospel. Moving forward into 2021, these 'Faith in a Bag' activities are becoming very popular, with online training sessions on how to use them in children's ministry and we have led the way in the Diocese.

Christmas

We had recorded our Crib Service story very early; Kerry and I met the TAB children at Llanfellte Farm and recorded the shepherds' story there with James and Joe filming. Simon

put the service together and we were able to premiere that at 4 pm on Christmas Eve; there was great delight at the finished product and it really raised our spirits.

Training

I have undergone the St Padarn's **Safeguarding Awareness training** and will continue with further training in 2021. I also began a **Mental Health First Aid** course which I have not been able to finish yet. Through the course of the year I have spent innumerable hours on free online zoom training and webinars for using online media / Messy Church etc. I think that some of these IT resources are ones which we carry through after Lockdown. Certainly, routine meetings will be easier to arrange.

Thanks

I am grateful to St Ed's for keeping me in a job and for their prayer support during this most challenging year.

I have already referred to the Messy Church team several times, but there have been numerous zoom meetings with Alison, Judy R, Lyn Morris, Moseena and the long suffering Simon, and it has been a great joy and encouragement to be able to remain in contact and to work with them through the year. We have learnt an enormous amount and our efforts to keep in touch and share the love of Christ with our community have not gone unnoticed. Praise the Lord!

Mairwen Large

7. Open the Book 2020-21

Mid-March 2020 was the last time the Open the Book Team could actually go into Crickhowell Primary School to take an assembly. Little did we know then that it would be so long before we would be able to return in person, and we had to think creatively about how we could still stay in contact with the school.

We have done this by each member of the team recording themselves at home, reading a Bible Story. The story recordings were sent to the school and the teachers were able to use them when it fitted into their curriculum. For the Christmas stories the team went into the church building to dramatize three aspects of the Nativity and were filmed, being careful to keep suitable distances from each other. These were sent to school and hopefully enjoyed by the children before their Christmas break. We received an encouraging 'thank you' from one of the teachers, on behalf of the school, just before Christmas.

The essential element of Open the Book – the participation of the children in the storytelling – has been compromised during our absence from school. Some groups are using zoom and making live assemblies. We are exploring that technique, with the help of online training offered by Open the Book. It will be more feasible when the children return to school classes. In the meantime we have individually recorded stories for the spring term.

The Bible Society has been active throughout lockdown in keeping their website buzzing with suggestions, activities, training and encouragement to teams to keep going, making the best of the difficult situation.

Hopefully the school will open again in March and we shall continue to send in stories. The Headteacher is on secondment from 1st January but the Acting Head, Mr Francis, assures

us that they still welcome Open the Book and they will be happy to see us return to actual assemblies when the school is fully open to visitors.

Alison Stedman

(The team: Anna Bessant, Moseena Khan, Helen Frazer, Phillip Keene, Mairwen Large, James Sercombe)

8. Youth Reports

“Only BellsAloud” – Bell-ringing team

In January, the bell-ringing team resumed our Sunday morning commitment to ring before the 10.45am service. Daisy, who had moved here the previous summer, quickly learnt how to chime the bells, joined the rota with Faith, Sam, Ceri-Anne, Emily and Kerry. We were looking forward to ringing for several weddings during the year, and were very disappointed and sad for the couples, whose special occasion had to be cancelled due to the COVID19 pandemic, especially for Bec, who had been a former ringer here and had taught some to ring.

The subsequent lock-down also meant there were no services in church, so there was no need to ring the bells, However, on Thursday evenings, when the Nation clapped to show our appreciation of the Health Service and other Key Workers, the bells were chimed for a few minutes, much to the delight of those living nearby, especially when Amazing Grace and the National Anthem were in the short repertoire!

During a brief relaxation of the lock-down rules, some services re-started and there was one wedding, however, due to social distancing only one person was able to chime the bells.

In October the bells were recorded for Bec’s wedding, which then took place in a modern church in France. The recording was also played on some of the video streamed services for the Ministry Area. A few of our young people also recorded themselves reading Bible passages which were used in these live -streamed services.

We look forward to ringing the bells regularly again and hope for the couples, that their weddings can go ahead this year.

Kerry Andrews

“TotesAmazeBells” (TAB) Youth Club Report

In January, the youth club resumed as usual, meeting weekly on Thursday evenings, mostly in the Parish Hall. Once a month we met in church to practice chiming the tower bells. As numbers in club had risen since the summer, not everyone could fit into the tower, and not everyone wanted to ring bells, so some remained in the church and played games under the supervision of leaders and helpers. A second hand pool table and board games had been donated, so there was plenty to do and time to chat and get to know the young people a bit better.

During 2020 we were hoping the group would grow and gel together further. We also planned to take them to another camp in July organised by the Diocese in association with

“Spree Wales”. The young people were energetic, had questions and ideas, and were fun to be with.

However, even before lock-down, many experienced very challenging issues in life which surfaced periodically during club and were of concern to the leaders/helpers. Peer pressure and social media were having a negative influence on a number of them. Some were also dealing with quite serious social and mental health issues in their young lives, so an element of support and pastoral care was required.

All of us involved with young people, decided to apply for some training to enable us to offer support more effectively. Alison arranged for us to attend a comprehensive 2-day course called “Youth Mental Health First Aid Training”. The earliest dates available were in May. Unfortunately this was postponed due to the pandemic. In the meantime, we attended a few useful zoom webinars about mental health by Scripture Union and other Christian organisations. Eventually we did manage to organise the course in September, during the brief window of opportunity between lock-downs! A parent and grandparent joined us for the training too.

In March, the sudden arrival of COVID19 and subsequent lock-down of most of life’s activities, brought us all to an unexpected halt in the way we were running our youth clubs. The only way to do any youth-work was online. Most of us were used to normal internet activity, but some were unfamiliar with WhatsApp and had never heard of “zoom” (apart from the ice-lolly we enjoyed when we were young!!!).

So, with parental consent, we set up a WhatsApp group chat and searched the internet for resources to share with them, eg. mini videos, games, puzzles, bands playing Christian songs on YouTube, quizzes, links to websites and events, posters with Bible verses and pictures to print off and colour in, etc. We tried “meeting/chatting” on WhatsApp twice a week at a specific time, but it soon became an ad hoc way to communicate and post items of interest during the week. The young people also shared photos of their pets, cakes baked, crafts made and artwork.

We also started a weekly zoom chat on our usual club night. Initially they were fairly well attended, but some did not want to engage this way despite trying different times, introducing games etc. We have continued to maintain some contact with these young people on WhatsApp and occasionally have seen some of them out and about in town or when the Ministry Area magazines, craft materials or occasional treat were dropped off at their homes. In September, we were allowed to meet, socially distanced, as a group outside and had an hour together in the Rectory garden on a couple of evenings. It was great to see all of them back together again (except three who couldn’t make it). They are all desperate to re-start club properly – which is good to know, but frustrating that we can’t yet.

For a dedicated small number of young people, the zoom chats have been a great success. We usually start the sessions with Kahoot questions associated with the topic for the evening. I must say, our knowledge of some topics is growing steadily! We often play a game, try a craft or activity, show a short film, read a Bible passage and discuss a particular topic and pray at the end. We’ve used various online resources from Tearfund, Scripture Union, Youth for Christ and many other resources for topics and ideas, and stretched ourselves to make some up too.

In the first lock-down we talked about various issues and discussed coping strategies to do with COVID19 and lock-down. Two of the group were also still getting over the flood which affected their home and the area by the river. We realised many older members of the community were isolated and lonely, so 10 of the young people kindly wrote to at least one person and sent pictures. They were gratefully received. The young people were also delighted to receive lovely replies. We also looked at various Eco topics, poverty, hunger and climate change, as well as the lives of saints and had an online "Light Party" instead of Halloween.

In December we each made an Advent decoration and learned about the Advent themes of Hope, Peace, Love and Joy. We were very disappointed that the Crib Service was cancelled, as we always enjoy writing and performing our Nativity play. However, Mairwen created the opportunity for us to film a short Nativity play outside and socially distanced at Phil and Kathy's farm, with a couple of scenes in the church. They only had a week to learn the parts and were then directed on site. With only 2-4 takes of most scenes, James Bessant and his friend captured the scenes amazingly well, using high-tec cameras and a drone! Our 1st short Nativity film was premiered at 4pm on Christmas Eve on the streamed Crib Service. It was very well received!

Kerry Andrews

Older Youth Group Report

2020 has been a very challenging year for all of the young people and for us as a youth group. They have all experienced frustration and loss at different times, not only because of the isolation from friends and their usual activities, but also because of all the difficulties with remote learning and cancellation of exams due to the pandemic.

Spring

Throughout the year we have been in touch with the young people in whatever ways we could within the rules. Early in the New Year we met at our house for a Chinese Banquet and to plan together when we would meet regularly to start our new series on "Encountering God." We made a good start, but it was quite a challenge to find a way to meet all the very varied needs of the group, and attendance was sporadic. We enjoyed having a Pancake evening together and shared a reflection on Lent. We also suggested that we all do a daily youth App called "40 Acts" which gives a short focus on God and ideas for how to "give out to others" rather than just "give up things"; we texted to encourage each other during the week. Unfortunately, illness got in the way with Pneumonia (Suzanne) in February and then both Ed and Suzanne had COVID19 throughout March. Hannah, one of the young people, kindly kept them supplied with shopping. During lock-down, we could have no direct contact, but kept in touch and tried to encourage them via text messaging. We had several online meetings via House party, to try and reintegrate the group together, giving time to play some games, chat and share things to pray for. However, many seemed to have "zoom fatigue" and attendance at any online get-togethers dwindled, no matter what we did.

Summer

We used "permitted daily walks" to visit all the young people (outside their homes) a number of times - to see how they were getting on, and share something to encourage them. In June we agreed as a group to do a short (8 day) youth App on the Lord's prayer and to meet for socially distanced cake and discussion in our garden at the end - not many came but we had a good time. Suzanne interviewed Molly for the Telusk Programme, about why she cut off all her hair for a cancer Charity. We told the group about "Amplify" - a national course run by HOPE for young people with a heart for evangelism. Moosa was interested and we encouraged him to apply. It should have started in September but has been postponed until 2021.

Autumn

We enjoyed a socially distanced outdoor BBQ in our garden, prior to Hannah's departure for University, where we enjoyed chatting and praying together with the four who came. We attempted to set up a new weekly get-together on Zoom - but no takers, saying they were too busy with school demands. We continued contact via individual text chats

Winter

Suzanne and four of the young people took up "The Climb" challenge with TEAR Fund (each of us climbing Snowdon virtually on our staircases) and managed to raise the amazing sum of £1307.50. Doing this together had the great by-product of being able to have much more connection with these young people over a few weeks, and for them to see how when we give something to God, He is able to do far more than we ever ask or imagine. It was still not possible to meet, even virtually, together as a group, but we were able to give quite a bit of individual encouragement.

Several of us went together via zoom, to an Alternative Carol Service at P's and G's in Edinburgh, which was lively, thought provoking and uplifting.

Suzanne and Ed Walker

Jeremy's Bible study group

Jeremy Bevan set up an in depth Bible study group for teens on Tuesday evenings during the summer. Four, mostly older boys and a man in his 20's attended on zoom. They studied Genesis.

Links with schools

At the start of the year, our contact was growing well with Matthew Knight, an RE teacher at the High School, who ran the Christian Union. The CU was going well. About 40 young people attended these weekly sessions at lunchtime on Wednesdays. Unfortunately they had to stop due to lock-down.

Then, in the summer, Matthew was offered a new job in another school, so, sadly for us, he moved away, but gave us details of another Christian teacher to contact. Unfortunately, it was not possible for the CU to restart, even when the schools resumed in September.

In the meantime, Rana has visited the High School and had contact with the Head and some Christian teachers who are keen to engage with us. I have also made contact with one of the Christian teachers and will discuss how we can support the school in 2021.

Youth-worker

Since returning from the youth camp at The Beacon Centre at Lee Abbey in Oct 2019, one of the instructors there, William Jago, contacted us to say that he would be interested in coming to be a youth-worker with us here at St Edmunds. We met with Rana and Julian to discuss and pray about this offer and decided to invite him to spend a few days here. He came on 6th Jan 2020 and joined the clubs and CU for their sessions and had discussions with youth-leaders and helpers, Rana and Julian. It was a positive visit.

It is with great sadness and disappointment that, for several reasons, we have not been able to engage Will to work with us in Crickhowell, at least, not at the moment.

We are however, still in need of a more youthful youth-worker as we continue to reach out to and support the young people in this area.

Youth-work Link with Scripture Union

On 14th Oct 2020 Scripture Union (SU) launched "Revealing Jesus" at an evening celebration on zoom. It's a mission framework designed to help churches to connect with the 95% of young people not connected with churches. Several of us working with young people attended this launch.

SU is also offering resources and practical and relational support from their local Mission Enablers. Suzanne, Carl and Kerry met up with our local Enabler on zoom to find out more. Kerry is now signed up to be the link person to start the process of engaging with their training and support.

Points for Prayer Please

- For the physical, mental and spiritual health of the young people, and the challenges they face returning to school and resuming their social lives.
- For the youth-leaders and helpers
 - That we can help those who have engaged with us on zoom to grow, re-connect with those who have not joined in much with online group activities and reach out to those not yet involved,
 - We can respond appropriately to the needs of young people and give them effective support
 - that we will explore the way forward as to how we run the groups and activities and adapt to their diverse interests and youth culture
 - that we will build a trusting and positive relationship with each of the young people and help them to explore the Christian faith,
- for God to provide a younger person to work with us and this age group - someone who is able to be a role-model and inspire.

Thank you

Kerry Andrews

9. Prayer Ministry

'Life Line' – this expression is used quite commonly in today's language and has its roots in 'Rescue at Sea' – a rope is thrown to a drowning man and he is hauled safely on board.

This past year, a lot of us have been isolated from each other, personal meetings, face to face conversations and Sunday services at church have been all but reduced to zero.

Thank God for the Internet; at least many of us we have been able to stay in touch with one another by the vagaries of Zoom, YouTube and the Smart Phone. This has been our 'Life Line'.

As a computer immigrant, I have just about got the hang of how to get into a Zoom meeting, mute, unmute and - probably more important how to leave that meeting!

In February last year, just as the Covid Virus began to take hold, Sally Rees suggested that we should consider introducing a second morning prayer meeting on Friday mornings specifically to pray about issues resulting from the pandemic.

We had already moved our Tuesday morning prayer meetings from St Edmunds Church to Zoom, using the internet. Interestingly our regular numbers for these meetings averages at the moment 16 on Tuesday and 12 on Friday, a small increase on our meetings in church.

We lose some of the values of meeting face to face in church, coffee in the Court Room Café afterwards – but the savings in travel time, fuel, etc. raise questions about returning to St Edmunds for our weekday morning prayer once restrictions are lifted!!

Back to the 'Life Line' – these Morning Prayer times via Zoom meetings have been a great help in keeping in touch with each other in the context of a user friendly 'service'. Probably more importantly we have been able to pray together consistently over a whole range of issues using a format that covers the 'Big Picture' as well as our personal concerns.

The Prayer Chain Ministry which is separate from the Morning Prayer meetings has also continued meeting a different need. With many more people part of the prayer chain than the prayer meetings needs can be shared quickly and confidentially to the chain simultaneously, enabling prayer to go up as the message is received.

As you read this report, you may feel that you would like help to join this kind of opportunity for keeping in touch, If so, don't delay, contact Sally Rees, Rennie Gold or David Gooding.

Rennie and Melloney Gold

10. Mens Prayer Breakfast

Men's Prayer Breakfast normally meets on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays in every month in the Crickhowell Parish Hall at 8.00am. All men are welcome from any parish or denomination. We would start with exchange of news etc. while eating hot croissants and rolls and drinking fruit juice and tea. Afterwards one of us leads usually with a bible reading of his choice and discussion. Requests for prayer would then be asked for and a period of prayer followed.

Unfortunately due the COVID-19 restrictions no meetings have been able to be held since March 2020. For further information contact Richard 01873 810919.

Richard Crole-Rees

11. Mothers' Union

We began the year as usual with lunch together, this time in January at the Llanwenarth. By the beginning of February COVID 19 was beginning to be talked about but little did we know what was to face us and for how long we would be parted from our friends and family. During February we were still not aware of what lay ahead so we were able to hold our AGM. Our turn for the Mothers' Union Wave of Prayer is now in February and we were able to incorporate our prayers into our meeting. We prayed for our link Dioceses in Free State, South Africa, in Nigeria, in Kenya and in Uruguay and Argentina.

From March onwards we were unable to hold any meetings and most of us still had a lot to learn about computers and such things as Zoom. The majority of members were able to be contacted via the computer so were able to keep up to date with MU nationally. Other members were kept informed via letters. We continued to support our projects, the womens' refuges and Faith in Families.

By May we had learned what a devastating effect COVID and the lockdown had had at our headquarters at Mary Sumner House based in the centre of Westminster. The diocese was able to make a substantial contribution, from reserves, towards the million pound deficit they were facing but not even the thousands of pounds contributions from UK dioceses could save many of the jobs and several staff had to be made redundant.

During the summer we began to hope that we might be able to meet again in the autumn, but this was not to be the case. Building Hope and Confidence was our theme for 2020 and Mary Sumner House worked hard to make this a reality. Many resources were put on line and national prayer diaries and the magazine were rationalised in the light of the changing times we unexpectedly found ourselves in. Mid-day Prayers also went on-line and became a valuable accessible prayer time to members from all over the world.

As we move into 2021, and to what we hope will be a return to some sort of normal life, our theme is Re-Building Hope and Confidence and I am grateful to all members of our Branch who have faithfully renewed their membership, loyalty and belief in the very important work Mothers' Union is doing to improve peoples' lives and spread the word of the Gospel of Christ worldwide.

Ella Thomas
Branch Leader

12. Home Groups

A newly configured Home Group has been meeting using Zoom since Easter 2020. The first term, in which Barry Roche was involved, focused on 'Talking Jesus', a video-based course on faith-sharing in the community. This had been developed by a team, including the Church

of England, and was very well attended on-line and was excellent in content and challenge. In the autumn we moved into an overview of the Bible Reading Fellowship's "Holy Habits" course and found this useful in revealing how our current church practices compare with the account of the early church contained at the end of Acts Chapter 2. In 2021, we go on to study the Book of Proverbs.

Julian Stedman

The Alternative Home-Group

Year 2020 has been a year of change from meeting together 'in person' to the electronic media of Zoom. For the early part of the year we managed to look at the first two chapters of John's Gospel, and then the dreaded virus changed everything.

We have been in 'hibernation' since the beginning of the pandemic, and we have been hoping for a long time that we would be able to re-start again soon. We did not try and create a Zoom Home-group but supported each other by being in regular contact via WhatsApp and good old BT. However, our plan for 2021 is to join the Lent Course starting on 17th February via Zoom, and then to restart the Alternative Home Group straight after Easter which will have to be on Zoom. However, let's pray that by Easter we will be able to meet 'in person' again rather than electronically.

John Matty

Bryn Nant Home Group

We were unable to meet face to face for most of 2020 but we did manage a few get-togethers in Sue Bull's garden when the restrictions were lifted slightly and we were allowed. A WhatsApp group was set up as soon as the lockdown happened so at least we have been able to keep in touch on a regular basis and we shared the usual round of funny videos as well as more serious spiritual ones that have been doing the rounds. We will meet again as soon as restrictions are lifted and regulations allow, in the mean time we will make use of Zoom and telephone.

Kathryn Bullon

13. Mission Group

A year ago we were anticipating a visit from Rev Nadim Nassar from the Awareness Foundation, one of our mission partners, to tell us about work among Syrian Christians. At the very last moment we realised that it could not go ahead as the realisation of the pandemic hit us. We hope to have this visit at a later time.

The pandemic and visa issues brought Drs Sally and Carl Venn back home from Hyderabad in South India in the spring and they have continued to keep contact with their health workers from home. They update the prayer meeting with issues for prayer as Indians also cope with Covid and internal political situations that affect them.

Judith in South Pakistan wrote to say she was anticipating waiting out the virus in a 'safe' place on the compound, but NZCMS decided she must come out of the country because she

was not considered to be safe in the pandemic. She had a strange and circuitous journey back to Auckland at the last possible time to leave Pakistan in April and finally arrived in New Zealand a few hours before the total lockdown. She anticipates returning to Kunri but has no date yet. She is in contact with Kunri while doing deputation work at home.

Locally, mission at home could no longer be 'actual' after March so Open the Book, Messy Church, Youth club have continued online.

The return to the UK of our CMS partners, Joel and Fiona Kelling in Jordan, was postponed from June to December. That meant that their second child, Nora, was born in Jordan. The family are staying with relatives in Oxford and are doing deputation from home. We have had a recorded greeting from them on Telusk Forum and they will appear in a zoom Sunday morning service at the end of February. Joel has made a presentation of his work for the Anglican Alliance, which was made available on zoom in February and available to all interested parties. They await a date for returning to Jordan.

Beach Missions did not happen, all summer activities of outreach were cancelled. There was no Open Studios Art weekend and therefore no major contribution to Christian Aid last year. However, support for the Brecon Food Bank has been maintained throughout the year. We were able to make a collection for Easter, more financial gifts than actual food packages. The collection for Harvest in October raised an amazing £1,300 + For Christmas people contributed food gifts to the box in Crickhowell News and items were taken to Brecon by the Mission Group. Again, a substantial amount of money was generously donated. Some church folk gave to the BFB in lieu of buying Christmas cards.

In November we held the second Tearfund Big Quiz online, facilitated by Simon Large, when 7 teams of 6 each competed and donated a total of £1,805 to Tearfund. £380 was raised by fees to join the quiz and £1425 was raised by Suzanne Walker and some young people by doing a sponsored ascent of Snowdon – on their own stairs at home, wearing a rucksack!

In November the Mission Group drew up a proposal to PCC for allocating funds from the Mission budget to our partners in various aspects of local, national and international mission. We have received grateful thanks from organisations that are struggling even more this year. As the level of church funds has been maintained in spite of the pandemic and church being closed, that generosity of giving has enabled St Edmund's to be generous in its giving to others who are in real need of support. Despite the spread of the virus worldwide and the awful effects on people, Mission continues as Christians seek to be God's hands and feet where there is need.

Alison Stedman

Rukungiri Orphan Partnership.

Like everyone else Covid 19 has affected us and the school in Uganda. The Trustees of the charity have been unable to meet together so our meetings have all been on Zoom and Sue and Steve Read who normally visit the school every February have been unable to do so this year. Modern School shut down completely for a while and then allowed the P7 children (top year) back so that they could do their important P7 Leaving Exams. These would normally be taken in November but have been delayed until March so that pupils could cover

the lessons that they had missed during lockdown. P6 have now returned to school and the other years will go back gradually so that they should all be in school by June.

We have continued to pay the teachers wages throughout this time and sent money for food aid for the families of pupils who have struggled to make ends meet during lockdown. Hopefully it will be possible to visit Uganda later this year to give and receive encouragement for the project.

Smile Amazon

We have now set up a charity giving account on Smile Amazon under the name of the charity. Sign into <https://smile.amazon.co.uk>. We receive 0.05% every time you order something, but you must be signed into Smile Amazon, not the main Amazon site. Go to 'your account' and select a charity. As you start typing into the dropdown bar, Rukungiri Orphan Partnership should appear. If you have any problems, please contact us on rukungiriorphanpartnership397@gmail.com set up specifically for this purpose.

Thanks to St Ed's and those who sponsor a child for the continuing support for ROP.

Judy Cave

14. Friends of St Edmund's

Before the pandemic we were privileged to welcome Adrian Barlow, who gave an inspiring talk on the "Stained Glass of Charles Eamer Kempe", which included two windows in St Edmund's. Other planned activities were sadly postponed until such time as it is safe to reschedule.

We were sad to hear of the death of Trevor Hoskins just before Christmas. A loyal supporter of the Friends scheme. Our condolences to his family.

Weddings and baptisms were also curtailed, so there have been no new "honorary" Friends for the past year.

However, we are very grateful to the Friends for their continuing support throughout this past year.

Income from donations was £1097 along with £90.80 raised at the "Kempe" talk. Gift Aid claimed for 2020 will be £263 and we look forward to receiving this in due course. The bank balance stands at £3068 at the end of December 2020.

Many thanks to our Friends and Trustees

Kaye Bennett

15 Online Services

In March 2020 Wales entered its first Coronavirus lockdown. As churches were forced to close and everyone was told to remain at home we faced the challenge of how to continue our worship and witness in a new way. Whilst it would have been possible to provide some sort of audio-only service along the lines of the Radio 4 Morning Worship, several people were keen to explore the possibility of an online service on YouTube.

James Bessant Davies already had an interest in video production and drone camerawork and it was he who filmed and edited the first few pre-recorded services, beginning on 22 March 2020, Mothering Sunday. The first few services were recorded partly in church and partly at home, and the hymns were instrumental versions played on the organ without a congregation. As the lockdown conditions became stricter, all recording had to be done in homes and James began to experiment with a virtual choir composed of members of Llangattock church choir recording themselves on mobile phones.

At around the same time, the extended Large family were all living under the same roof with a variety of musical instruments at their disposal, and they started making recordings of songs to use in services. Josh was able to put his A-level music technology training to good use and Simon was learning how to use the video editing software to start sharing some of the load with James.

Each service features one of the ten churches in the Ministry Area, and we started making use of other online resources to give more of a variety of musical styles. We always try to ensure that each service includes as much content as possible from the featured church. There is a regular team of service leaders from around the Ministry Area, and members of each congregation provide the readings and prayers each week. In some of the more recent services we have been able to include the sound of the church bells, local photography and sometimes recordings of the choir or worship group, so each service has a familiar feel to it rather than being something that is happening remotely.

With the easing of lockdown, churches began to re-open, albeit in a limited way, and it was decided to reduce the number of online services to two per month. Zoom services were also introduced for the intervening Sundays, giving a different kind of service with a more participatory feel.

2021 brings the promise of a vaccine for all, although the timescales for a full return to normal remain uncertain. So we remain committed to providing the means to worship and witness from home until we are able once again to meet together in our churches.

Simon Large

16. Safeguarding

Safeguarding remains an important area of church life for everyone including during the Covid pandemic.

The Bench of Bishops are taking an active lead in providing up to date information for the church and its members as the rules and guidance change from the Senedd.

As with many areas of life safeguarding provision has developed, changed and moved on-line.

We now have a new safeguarding policy with supplementary guidance which has been developed by Dorian Davies, the Provincial safeguarding manager and this supercedes any previous information.

The safeguarding training is now delivered by St Padarns and is project managed by Dr Julie Davies with Emma Leighton- Jones being the on-line trainer. This is free, mandatory and available to all church members. This programme of training is still an on-going development at this time.

The above two developments have been scrutinised by the Safeguarding Advisory Group of which I am a member before acceptance by the Representative Body of the Church in Wales.

DBS applications and renewals are still available but again these are now on- line through Alison Smith at the Cardiff office.

There is now an on-line independent support service called Safe Spaces which provides personal confidential support to all churches and its members on all church related matters.

There is more information on all of the above available on the Church in Wales Safeguarding Website.

There are on-going future developments in order to improve safeguarding within the Church in Wales. This will involve governance, scrutiny and audit. Also, they are seeking to appoint a Director of Safeguarding who will provide a strategic lead in both its development and implementation across all levels and establishments of the Church in Wales.

I continue as the Safeguarding Officer for St Edmunds Church as well as a member of the Diocesan Safeguarding Committee and the Safeguarding Advisory Group.

If you have any concerns or queries linked to safeguarding then please continue to contact me.

Sherill Worgan

17. Church Wardens and Fabric Report

Rector's Warden's

Although the Covid pandemic has meant that we haven't been able to meet regularly in person, in many ways we have grown closer together as a church family and more appreciative of each other's support and friendship.

In a year like no other, our church has been closed for services on several occasions for weeks at a time, but thankfully we have been able to offer a daily sanctuary for private prayer. This has been achieved because of the commitment and dedication of a small number of the congregation who have been stewarding throughout for two hours each week, very often in extremely cold conditions! My heartfelt thanks to them all. I know from the feedback that this time in prayer has been a blessing for many, sometimes their only relief from loneliness, and has also proved to be very rewarding for the stewards.

I would also like to thank both Anthony Silwood and Anthony Seys-Llewellyn who spent many hours ensuring the church was as Covid safe as possible.

I was surprised and saddened by Adrian Andrews' resignation as People's Warden and I'd like to thank him for all his hard work and support to me during his time in office.

I was then delighted when Kathryn Bullon agreed to take over the role and I have been grateful for her support and advice during this unprecedented time.

At last, we can see the light at the end of the tunnel as we eagerly look forward to meeting and worshipping together in church in the not too distant future, although our pre-recorded and Zoom services have been a lifeline for which we are truly grateful to everyone concerned)

So finally, encouraged by Isiah's words "those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength"

Isiah 40:31.

Sue Foster

Fabric Report (Brenda Gooding)

There are still two broken cables from the sound desk that have not been repaired.

We are still trying to get the faulty glass in the new front doors replaced. Taliesin are now seeking to purchase glass from a different supplier but the supplier has not yet attended to measure for replacement glass. We still hold money from Taliesin until final snagging is completed.

The broken lock on the front door has been replaced.

The codelock on the backdoor did not have a wiring problem but water had got into the mechanism. The manufacturers replaced the mechanism free of charge. Since this model of

lock has been upgraded there would be no possibility of another replacement in the future so a new lock would be required.

In summer 2020 Adrian Andrews and Brenda Gooding met with Philip Belchere to discuss the two projects for which the PCC had appointed him as architect. The project for repair to tower and church was followed up and Philip Belchere provided the information required to Brenda Gooding so that an application for a faculty could be submitted. After the required months public notice the faculty was submitted on 19th January. We await the result of the application.

The method of repair to the West wall was discussed and Adrian Andrews was to agree with Philip Belchere the method that should be used. Brenda Gooding has not yet received any information from Philip Belchere so that an application for a faculty can be made.

The influx of water in the autumn was due to the blocked hoppers and build-up of leaves in the gullies. When Taliesin attended to inspect the problem they cleared the leaves for us. This is a task that needs doing each year, or possibly twice yearly. Adrian was in discussion with a local builder about a contract for this work to be done. I do not know the result of this.

An infra-red heater has been installed for the area where those who care for the open church sit. To do this, the electrical feed to the air curtain heater above the door was used so the air curtain heater does not work. To reinstate the air curtain heater a new feed will need to be put in from distribution board.

At the request of the PCC, David Gooding has undertaken the research required to allow the lighting of the tower and spire to be reinstated. The report of this research has been presented to the PCC and, if the suggested method is accepted, there will need to be an approach to the Parks Authority for clarification of the need for planning permission or not. Does the work need a faculty?

Brenda Gooding

Fabric Report (Adrian Andrews)

On 6th July once travel restrictions were lifted Philip Belchere the Architect who wrote the last Quinquennial Inspection Report was able to meet Brenda and myself in the Churchyard to discuss two significant areas of concern.

A Structural Engineers Report has indicated that sections of the West Retaining Wall to the Churchyard are unstable and of high priority to be attended to. Tenders for the agreed method of repair will be needed to find the true cost. St Edmunds PCC is responsible for the Wall and will need to look for Grant Aid to cover this.

The East Wall of the Church requires monitoring of the ongoing movement in order to determine how best to stabilise it. It is hoped that the firm who produced the Structural Survey will be able to do this in due course.

I am grateful to those who were able to help with cutting back vegetation in the Churchyard.

The East Wall will need some repair due to being broken up by Ivy and Valerian.

We are blessed with the reliable service that Simon Harbutt gives in the Churchyard.

I am also very grateful to Kathryn for standing as People's Warden at very short notice at the last AVM.

Adrian Andrews

18. Fundraising Report

We started off 2020 on a really positive note and had events planned for most months of the year. Two coach trips, a quiz night, open days in August and a concert in October were planned along with a 1920s night to celebrate 100 years of the Church in Wales and an afternoon tea to celebrate V.E day were the main events we had put in the calendar. Unfortunately none of them were able to take place; however, we are hopeful that when restrictions are lifted we will be able to move them all forward to 2021 or 2022.

Kathryn Bullon

19. Treasurer's Report

2020 was a challenging year, for obvious reasons of Covid19, with long periods of closure of St Edmund's to church services; with fewer attending because of Covid19 restrictions or concerns the services which we did hold; and fewer receipts by way of weekly giving envelopes or in the plate. Also there was, effectively, no possibility of receipt of any funds from our remarkable fundraising group.

Towards the end of the year, we were running on near empty in the current account. There was under £10,000 in the current account; and at some stage we would have to pay the last "retention" amounts to Taliesin in respect of the works to the roof in 2019; and some moneys (£4,000) were committed by earlier decisions to future restoration of the effigies in the chancel; and Mission share (the old "Parish Quota") payable to the Diocese was, at the 2020 figure, already almost £6,000 per month.

We have emerged on an even keel, thanks to two aspects above all others. The first reason is that some three quarters of giving to the church was already by standing order, which has been maintained, and a number of others have loyally continued to give. The second reason is that the Diocese has given relief against the amount payable in 2020 for 'Mission Share' (colloquially, "Parish Share") - as approved by the end of 2020, in separate grants, this equalled broadly 3 months' worth of payments.

The process of achieving approval involved a considerable amount of work in preparing submissions, liaising with and encouraging our sister churches, and ensuring that between the churches in St Catwg Ministry Area we met the targets set by the Diocese for actual

payments, before we received approval of further relief. I spare you the details, (unless you wish to ask questions at the AVM).

There were of course some savings by reason of closure of the church, in particular in respect of our usual bills for lighting and heating, but these are and were insignificant in comparison with the single, and by far the largest, component of our outgoings, (almost £70,000 pa for St Edmund's), namely Mission Share (or in old fashioned terms the Parish Quota).

In consequence, towards the year end I was able to recommend that the PCC could approve Mission Giving for 2021 of what in the end amounted to £5,100; albeit this was cut to our present cloth from the amount which had been (actually, quite bravely, approved) at the end of 2019 for 2020. This would not have been possible but for the substantial relief approved by the Diocese against the Mission/Parish Share; and it would not have been possible without the loyalty of those who continued to give to support the church in 2020.

Anthony Seys Llewellyn

ST EDMUNDS CHURCH, CRICKHOWELL

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR

ENDING

31st DECEMBER 2020

Vaughan I Bennett, Accountant

Crickhowell

Powys

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST EDMUNDS CHURCH, CRICKHOWELL**

I report on the accounts of the Parish for the year ended 31 December 2020, which are set out below.

Respective responsibilities of members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) and examiner

The PCC's members are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The PCC's members consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts (under section 145 of the Charities Act);
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act); and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the parish and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as the members of the PCC concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, **no** matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act;
 - have not been met; or
2. to which in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Vaughan Ian Bennett
Accountant
47 Oakfield Drive, Crickhowell,
POWYS NP8 1DR

March 2021

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL - ST EDMUNDS, CRICKHOWELL

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Note	2020	2019
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors & Prepayments		10,263	675
Income Tax Refunds Due		3,385	3,446
National Savings		1	1
Bank Balances		<u>56,075</u>	<u>57,458</u>
		£69,724	£61,580
Deduct: CURRENT LIABILITIES (creditors due within one year)			
Creditors		<u>5,581</u>	<u>7,309</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		64,142	54,270
		<u>£64,142</u>	<u>£54,270</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS			
		<u>£64,142</u>	<u>£54,270</u>
REPRESENTED BY:			
Accumulated Resources (Unrestricted)	9	22,586	25,063
Fabric Repair Fund	10	32,950	20,910
Restricted Fund: Youth Worker	4b	<u>8,606</u>	<u>8,297</u>
		<u>£64,142</u>	<u>£54,270</u>

Anthony Seys Llewellyn

Hon. Treasurer

March 2021

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL - ST EDMUNDS, CRICKHOWELL

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Note	2020			2019
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Incoming Resources from donors					
Direct Giving:planned		48,226		48,226	49,850
other	##	1,301		1,301	5,406
Indirect Giving - Income tax refunds		13,467		13,467	13,077
Special Appeals: for the Worldwide Church					
Exceptional & Donations	4	1,294	5,470	6,764	15,974
Income from Investments					
Bank interest & Investment income		32		32	398
Income from charitable & ancillary trading					
Fund Raising	2	223		223	6,680
Other Ordinary Incoming Resources					
Other Income	1	726		726	3,944
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		£65,269	£5,470	£70,739	£95,329
RESOURCES USED					
Activities directly relating to the work of the church					
Giving outside the Parish(Special Appeals)	3	3,750		3,750	5,289
Mission in the Church	7	3,614	5,470	9,084	14,747
Social Concern	4	1,109		1,109	2,545
Church management & administration					
Maintenance of Ministry:Quota	12	44,422		44,422	62,898
Maintenance of Church	5	10,984		10,984	11,154
Maintenance of Services	6	2,560		2,560	1,438
Parochial Expenses		587		587	833
General Parish Expenses	8	720		720	1,088
Capital Expenditure (Chairs)		0		0	857
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		£67,746	£5,470	£73,216	£100,849
NET (EXPENDITURE)/ INCOME		(2,477)	0	(2,477)	(5,520)
UNREALISED GAINS AND LOSSES ON INVESTMENTS					
			0	0	0
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	9	(£2,477)	£0	(£2,477)	(£5,520)

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL - ST EDMUNDS, CRICKHOWELL

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS - 31 DECEMBER 2020

	2020	2019
1 Other Income	9601	
Weddings & Funerals	726	3,944
	<u>£726</u>	<u>£3,944</u>
2 Fund Raising		
Oxford/Bath Trips	0	846
Open Church 'Saturdays'	0	3,000
Roger White talk	0	387
Harvest Supper	0	0
Flower Arranging	0	340
Photocopying	0	328
Community Singing	0	116
Church Stall/Craft Fair	0	85
Prints & Postcards	163	36
Coffee Mornings	0	532
Granny Attic	0	76
Church Hire	60	934
	<u>£223</u>	<u>£6,680</u>
3 Special Appeals		2019
(Mission giving outside the Parish)	Received	Paid
Archdeaneries Charity	50	50
Awareness Foundation	200	250
Brecon Street Pastors	0	200
CMS	500	550
Carl & Sally Venn Indian Charity	100	500
Chile for Christ	400	400
S & B Board of Social Responsibility	150	100
Embrace the Middle East	200	250
Faith in Families	350	350
Hay, Brecon & Talgarth Refugee Sanctuary	200	0
Messy Church	100	150
Rakungirli Orphan & Vocational Project	350	400
Kunri Krafts	0	400
Mothers Union	400	400
Scripture Union	100	0
St Thomas Theological College	250	500
United Beach Mission	0	200
Tear Fund	400	589
	<u>£3,750</u>	<u>£5,289</u>

Other Collections were taken during the year for e.g. Christian Aid etc. These funds were received by the charities directly and did not pass through the Church Accounts.

4 (a) Other Income- exceptional items	Received	Paid	Balance	2019
Shelter Cymru			0	0
St David's Hospice	114	114	0	0
Usk House, Brecon			0	(200)
Open the Book		100	(100)	(150)
Womens' Refuge, Brecon		200	(200)	(200)
Dial a Ride		150	(150)	(200)
Crickhowell Volunteer Bureau		200	(200)	0
Church in Wales Centenary Appeal		200	(200)	
British Legion			0	0
Miscellaneous Donations	1,180	145	1,035	3,808
	£1,294	£1,109	£185	£3,058
(b) Youth Worker Appeal	8,297			
Donations Received	5,779			
	14,076			
Less Expenditure	5,470			
Carried forward to 2021	£8,606			
		2020		2019
5 Maintenance of Church				
Gas, Electricity & Water		2,854		4,223
Insurance		2,227		2,352
Maintenance, Cleaning etc		5,903		4,579
		£10,984		£11,154
6 Maintenance of Services				
Sacristy, Organ & Worship Group		2,430		1,438
Zoom Subscription		130		0
Hymn Books & Other Resources		0		0
		£2,560		£1,438
	Income	Expense	Net	2019
7 Mission in the Church				
Children & Youth			0	(447)
Parish Hall Hire (net of Men' Breakfast Club Contribution)		1,200	(1,200)	(1,200)
Advertising			0	(70)
Speakers		596	(596)	(267)
Magazine	198	252	(54)	(50)
Easter Lilies	14		14	6
Telephone, Broadband & Website Mtce		581	(581)	(351)
Secretarial Expenses			0	(18)
Ministry Area Travel		1,001	(1,001)	(1,121)
Training		129	(129)	(678)
Gifts			0	(10)
Publications		67	(67)	(170)
	£212	£3,826	(£3,614)	(£4,376)

	2020	2019
8 General Parish Expenses		
Printing, Stationery & Postage	156	248
Photocopy Lease	564	840
	<u>£720</u>	<u>£1,088</u>
9 Accumulated Fund		
Balance as at 31 December 2019	25,063	30,583
Surplus for the Year	(2,477)	(5,520)
Balance as at 31 December 2020	<u>£22,586</u>	<u>£25,063</u>
10 Fabric Repair Fund		
Balance as at 31 December 2019	20,910	24,454
Transfer from General Fund	0	0
VAT Refund	2,167	25,582
Donations Received - General	9,060	123,844
Friends	1,450	2,022
	<u>33,587</u>	<u>175,902</u>
Expenditure:		
Info Pillars	0	(538)
Grimbald Restoration	0	(750)
Bascowen Grave	0	(350)
Parish Room Refurbishment	0	(3,805)
Door	0	(9,060)
Roof Repairs	0	(140,489)
Tower	(637)	0
Balance as at 31 December 2020	<u>£32,950</u>	<u>£20,910</u>

12 Parish Share (Quota)

The total due to the Diocese for 2020 was £68289. By the year end the Church had received financial assistance in the form of rebates totalling £23,867. This enabled the Church to retain the monthly instalments for November and December 2020. As the Church had already paid £53,763 up to October there is a credit to carry forward to 2021 of £9,341. There are expectations of a further modest rebate to come in 2021 as yet unevaluated.

St Edmund's Church, Crickhowell

Annual Vestry Meeting

Friday 30th April 2021 at 5:00pm

Via Zoom

Agenda

- 1) Opening Prayers**
- 2) Apologies:**
- 3) Minutes of the 2020 November Annual Vestry Meeting**
- 4) Annual Report for 2020**
- 5) The revised Electoral Roll**
- 6) Financial Report 2020**
- 7) Review and renewal of Safeguarding Policy**
- 8) Elections and Appointments**
 - Rector's Warden**
 - People's Warden**
 - PCC Nominations**
 - Ministry Area Council Representative**
- 10) Appointment of Independent Examiner**
- 12) Any other business (for which prior notice has been given)**

St Edmund's Church, Crickhowell
Annual Vestry Meeting
Sunday 15th November 2020 at 10.45am
Minutes of the Meeting

- 1) **Opening Prayers:** were led by Rev R Khan, and David Gooding was wished 'Happy Birthday.'
- 2) **Apologies:** Rennie and Mell Gold, Kaye Bennett, Julian Stedman
- 3) **Minutes of the 2019 Annual Vestry Meeting:** Were accepted unanimously. Proposed by Kathryn Bullon, and seconded by Virginia Robotham
- 4) **Annual Report for 2019:** Already accepted.
- 5) **The revised Electoral Roll:** Ruth Griffiths explained that, due to Covid 19, the renewal of the Electoral Roll has been postponed until 2022, and then to be revised every 5 years from there onwards. She reported that there are 86 people currently on the roll, 3 people have come off (moved away) and 2 have joined.
- 6) **Financial Report 2019** . Our Treasurer Anthony Seys Llewellyn commented that we are in a reasonably stable position financially, due to the loyalty and resilience of the congregation. The Diocese has taken out a loan, and we will be expecting some financial relief from the Diocese towards our Parish Share this year.
Thanks are due to the Friends of St Edmunds for our new glass porch doors, and for the kind anonymous donation towards the refurbishment of the Church Room. ASL thanked everyone for continuing to give, and suggested that it would be helpful if most people could pay by Standing Order. Our finances are, hopefully, in an optimistic position at this time.
- 7) **Review and renewal of Safeguarding Policy:** A new Safeguarding Policy will be available on line shortly, and new on line training for every church member is already available on line. The PCC has agreed to the new Policy Statement signed by Rev. Rana Khan and Sherill Worgan, which will be displayed on the noticeboard at the back of church.

8) Elections and Appointments:

- **PCC Nominations:** 10 people were unanimously elected to the PCC and there are 6 Ex Officio Members (see attached) special thanks were minuted to Virginia Robotham and Hannah Jones who has gone to university. Dr Carl Venn and James Bessant joined the PCC as new members. James is representing young people.

- **Rector's Warden:** Sue Foster.

- **People's Warden:** Adrian Andrews has asked to stand down as Deputy People's Warden, but is happy to keep on with the fabric aspects of the role until the Easter AVM. Kathryn Bullon has agreed to take on the role of People's Warden until the next AVM. Nominated by Sue Foster, and seconded by Rosalind Matty

- **Ministry Area Council Representative:** John Matty has asked to stand down. He was thanked, and Rosalind Matty has agreed to take on this role. All in favour

9) Appointment of Independent Examiner: Vaughan Bennett was thanked for his work for the Church, and has agreed to continue in this role.

10) Any other business (for which prior notice has been given) There was none, and the AVM closed with prayer.

Attendance: 32 people in church

12 people on ZOOM

PCC Nominations 2020

Name	Proposer	Secunder
Rosalind Matty (Secretary)	Sue Foster	K Bullon
Kerry Andrews	R Matty	M Large
Anthony Seys Llewellyn (Treasurer)	K Bullon	R Matty
James Bessant	Rev. R Kahn	Rosalind Matty
Rennie Gold	R Matty	J Matty
David Gooding	R Matty	Rev R Khan
Anthony Silwood	R Matty	S Silwood
Carl Venn	R Matty	E Gower
Ed Walker	R Matty	J Matty
Ex – officio members		
Rev: Rana Khan (Rector)	Ex Officio	
Rev: Sally Rees	Ex Officio	
Kathryn Bullon (People's Warden)	Ex Officio Sue Foster	R Matty
Sue Foster (Rector's Warden)	Ex Officio	
Mairwen Large (Reader)	Ex officio	
Julian Stedman	Ex-Officio	

(Lay Evangelist)		
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